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The agitation of thought is the beginning of Truth.

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HOMŒOPATHY *via* YOUNG PHYSIC.

By J. Rutherfurd Russell, M.D.

(*Continued from page* 151.)

How vain and ignorant it is of those who profess themselves philosophic practitioners, to reject this proposition, and to stigmatise the practice thence flowing, on the ground of its being at the first hypothetical, is shown from the fact that all complex sciences have become perfect by means of some successful hypothesis. What was Kepler's law of planetary motion, which has introduced such accuracy into astronomy, that the accession of a new member to our system can now be infallibly predicted, but an hypothesis verified by calculation? What was Dalton's atomic theory, which has given such systematic beauty to chemistry, but an hypothesis verified by calculation? What was Torricelli's grand discovery of the pressure of the atmosphere, which introduced a new era in physics, but an hypothesis verified by an experiment? It is the same with Hahnemann's great law of medicine—it is an hypothesis proved true by its results.

Had Dr. Forbes and his followers been alive to the necessity of such a discovery, had they perceived that *it was not a Bacon, but a Newton, that medicine stood in need of*, they would have formed a very different estimate of the grandeur of Homœopathy; they would not have harped with puerile pertinacity upon the assertion that Hahnemann was mistaken in supposing that the symptoms of ague he felt stood in relation of cause and effect to the doses of cinchona bark he had previously taken. They would have perceived that it was of very little consequence what gave rise in the mind of Hahnemann to an hypothesis which, if substantiated, would make medicine a deductive science, instead of an empirical one; and they would have directed all their energies to ascertain whether this hypothesis be true or false; for, if true, it must for ever change the whole character of their art.

There were three possible ways open for disproving the truth of Homœopathy: first, by showing that it was opposed to some already established natural law; second, by showing that the facts on which it rested its claims for belief were either false or too few; third, that when tried as a guide in practice, it led to failure.

The first way was never attempted. No one has yet ventured to assert that the proposition that a medicine tends to cure diseases similar to those it tends to excite, is radically opposed to any general fact. Nay, were this the place for it, it would not be difficult to demonstrate, that this primary law of Homœopathy presents many striking and interesting analogies with some of the most important doctrines that have recently been advanced by the greatest writers in the various fields of physics, ethics, and psychology.

Neither Dr. Forbes, nor any of his school, have devoted themselves to the task of undertaking the second way, and showing that there is not a marked similarity between the curative and noxious effects of very many drugs. Nay, Dr. Forbes himself admits, in these words, that there is such a resemblance. "Indeed, it is supported by several strong analogies, afforded both by pathology and (allopathic) therapeutics."

The only other way which remained was to show, that where this law had been applied for the cure of diseases, it had entirely failed to effect its object. How far our opponents have succeeded in this, we leave those to determine who have carefully and critically studied Professor Henderson's letter to Dr. Forbes, as well as the evidence from which his arguments are drawn.

Hitherto we have contemplated Homœopathy as an abstract scientific truth, "won from the void and formless infinite" by the genius of its discoverer—a truth which would remain the same, although disease were to disappear, and there were no occasion for its application to human affairs; and we have considered the reason why the value of this truth has not been appreciated by the foremost men in our profession. But between such an abstraction and the requirements of daily life, there lies the province of art. The truth might be revealed, but might remain for ever unprofitable to us, if we were not instructed

in the mode of its application. Art is to science what action is to thought. The discovery of the law of Homœopathy made medicine as a science perfect; it required another discovery before an element of perfection was imparted to medicine as an art. Discoveries in art are of a wholly different kind from those in science. They are simply empirical rules obtained from observations or experiment, and proved true by experience. They never can have the same absolute value as fundamental principles, nor are they susceptible of the same amount of proof. The rules of art occupy, as it were, a middle point between science and its application. They rest upon a surface of fluctuating observations, and they derive their coherence and stability from a source different from that of their origin. That source is the abstract scientific truth to which they are united. In estimating the value of these rules of art, it is necessary always to keep in view this, their double connection; and it would be as unfair to judge of them, separated from their connection with the scientific principles which gives them support, as it would be to insist upon a child living in its mother's womb after the umbilical cord had been divided. This is the injustice which has been practiced upon the rule of art connected with the science of Homœopathy;—the rule that medicines when administered in accordance with the principle "*similia similibus*," should be given in minute quantities. If the proposition had been advanced that medicines, in doses infinitely minuter than had even hitherto been imagined, were capable of curing diseases, as a simple fact of observation, it might fairly have been met with the ridicule that has assailed it. But when advanced under the protection of a more general proposition, it ought to have been always viewed as related to that general fact; and in that light, whether it be true or false, it ceases to be ridiculous.

While, then, we charge Dr. Forbes with committing a fundamental error in philosophy, by not appreciating the necessity of some general hypothesis by which the science of medicine may be made deductive, we charge him and his followers with a second error in judging a rule of art without taking into consideration the cognate scientific principle from which it derives half its force. This misapprehension of the proper point of view, on the part of all English writers, from which the system of giving small doses ought to be regarded, is the less excusable, since those who have adopted their side of the controversy in Germany have admitted and given full prominence to the fact, that the dose must vary according to the principle by which the medicine is selected. "On the other hand," observes Dr. Jörg, "medicines operate most powerfully upon the sick when the symptoms correspond with those of the disease." A very small quantity of medicinal arnica will produce a violent effect upon persons who have an irritable state of the œsophagus and stomach. Mercurial preparations have in very small doses given rise to pains and loose stools, when administered in an inflammatory state of the intestines. Yet why," he exclaims, "should I occupy time by adducing more examples of a similar operation of medicines, since it is in the very nature of the thing that a medicine must produce a much greater effect when it is applied to a body already suffering under an affection similar to that which the medicine itself is capable of producing?"

Another great error which the various writers upon the subject have fallen into, when treating of minute doses, is confounding the amount of force required to originate a series of changes in the animal system, and that which is required to modify those changes where already going on. It is, if we may so express it, applying to a question of dynamics calculations derived from data afforded by statistics. Contented as the disciples of Young Physic are with allowing morbid processes to proceed without any intervention, and simply supporting the powers of life, that the system may not sink under the continuance of the disease; and accustomed as they and all allopathic physicians are to look upon therapeutic agents as operations beyond, or on the outside of, the sphere of the actual morbid forces (the derivative system of medicine), they do not perceive that, if it be possible to introduce a force within the actual sphere of diseased action, that force will be incalculably intensified in its operation by acting on other forces already in a state of preternatural and violent activity. A breath of air will deflect an arrow from its course, although shot from the bow of Apollo. We do not intend to dwell upon the point last mooted, partly because our space is exhausted, and partly because they have already been fully and ably handled by various writers. We would here recommend a recent popular work by Dr. Henry Madden, which contains a good exposition of this part of the subject.

Before we close this fragmentary and elliptical paper, the design of which has been rather to discover, if possible, and to indicate the chief sources of the errors of our opponents, and in this very search to point to the refutation of these errors, than to expose, by argument, the numerous fallacies which have marked their winding course throughout the controversy, we wish to do full justice to Dr. Forbes. We look upon him as the ablest exponent of the sceptical era in medicine. He expresses for the medicine what others have done for the philosophy of our period, which has been characterised as "an age of unbelief,

and yet afraid of scepticism." By giving expression to prevailing scepticism in medicine, Dr. Forbes has rendered an immense benefit to the profession; *he has brought out and made curable the hitherto latent psora.* The element of faith which he would fain mingle with his confession of general unbelief is too foreign to the rest of the system to have any influence upon his disciples. The reform he has so powerfully advanced will soon become a revolution beyond his power to control. His influence for the future will be purely destructive. But destruction of the bad must precede construction of the good; and for having with great talent and boldness attacked and shaken a dynasty whose speedy termination is with certainty predicted by this revolt of its chief supporter, for having rendered this service, and opened the gate of scepticism for the admission of truth, we feel deeply indebted to him, and we have no doubt that his school will prove to many the halting-place between Old Physic and Homœopathy.

ANNUAL MEETING

Of the Homœopathic Medical Society of the State of New-York.

The Annual Meeting of the Homœopathic Medical Society of the State of New-York was held, as required by the Constitution, at Albany, on Tuesday, the 8th of February.

The Society met in the City Hall, and at ten o'clock was called to order by the President, Dr. Lyman Clary. There was a very respectable attendance, about forty members answering to their names at the calling of the roll.

The minutes of the previous meeting having been read and approved, about twenty new members were elected.

Some other preliminary business having been transacted, it was moved and carried that the next order of business (reports from committees) be postponed for the present in order to receive communications in answer to the resolution passed at the last meeting, requesting each member to report at this meeting at least one case cured in his practice by a single remedy.

Reports of cases were then read by Drs. Humphreys, Metcalf, Guy, L. B. Wells, Weeks, H. D. Paine, A. C. Hull, and Boyce. Many other statements were offered, but not being in writing were not allowed.

These communications were, on motion, referred to the Bureau of Materia Medica.

Dr. Metcalf read, for the information of the society, an account of the effort now making for the establishment of a Homœopathic Hospital in the City of New-York.

These proceedings having occupied the attention of the Society till the hour of dinner, a recess was taken till half-past three, P. M.

Afternoon Session.

The Society having again met at the hour designated, the regular order of business was resumed.

The Bureau for the enlargement and improvement of the Materia Medica presented, through their chairman, Dr. Humphreys, an elaborate report, giving the results of the provings that had been conducted under their supervision, and in accordance with their suggestions, during the past year. More or less thorough trials had been made of the following drugs: viz., APIS MELLIFICA, CIMICIFUGA RACEMOSA, UREA, TITANIC ACID, and URANIUM.

The report was accepted and the committee requested to continue their labors.

The following resolutions, which were appended to the report, were then considered, and, after some discussion, adopted.

Resolved, That each member of the Society be requested to make a proving of at least one drug upon himself during the year, and to report the result of such proving to the Bureau of Materia Medica before the first of January next.

Resolved, That it be recommended especially that further provings be made of the following: viz., APIS MELLIFICA, PLANTAGO MAJOR, CIMICIFUGA RACEMOSA, UREA, URANIUM, TITANIC ACID, and GERANIUM MACULATUM.

Resolved, That each member be requested to report in writing, at each meeting, at least one case cured in his practice by a single remedy.

Dr. Guy, from the committee appointed to consider the proper mode of conducting drug provings, read an interesting and able report, but as the committee still considered it incomplete, it was, upon motion of Dr. Metcalf, referred back to them, with the request that they would continue the consideration of the subject and report at the next meeting.

Dr. Metcalf was added to the committee.

Dr. H. D. Paine, from the committee

appointed to consider the expediency of procuring an act of incorporation for the Society, reported that the general law appeared to meet all the necessities of the case, and offered a resolution authorising the President and Secretary to take the necessary measures for that purpose, which was adopted.

The Committee on the subject of a Homœopathic Medical College presented an elaborate report, which, in the absence of the chairman, (Dr. Ball,) was read by Dr. Humphreys.

The report, after viewing the subject in various aspects, comes to a conclusion favorable to the establishment of such an institution in the City of New-York, and recommends that early steps be taken to secure that object, in accordance with which the committee offers the following resolution.

Resolved, That a committee of seven be appointed, whose duty it shall be to nominate a board of trustees, procure a charter, and raise the funds for the establishment of a medical college in the City of New-York.

The report and its accompanying resolution gave rise to a considerable debate, in which Drs. Kirby, Metcalf, Perkins, Guy, Weeks and others, participated.

The resolution was, however, finally adopted, and the following members appointed on the committee: Drs. Ball, Beakley, Humphreys, Childs, Metcalf, Clary and Kirby.

After the transaction of some other business not of general interest, the Society proceeded to the election of officers for the ensuing year, with the following result:—

A. S. Ball, M. D., of New-York, President.

N. H. Warner, M. D., of Buffalo, 1st Vice President.

S. S. Guy, M. D., of Brooklyn, 2d Vice President.

L. B. Wells, M. D., of Utica, 3d Vice President.

H. D. Paine, M. D., of Albany, Secretary.

The President announced that he had appointed Dr. [illegible]. Joslin, of New-York, to deliver the Annual Address before the Society, and also that the use of the Assembly Chamber had been granted to the Society for this evening.

After consultation it was decided to hold the semi-annual meeting in the City of Utica, on the first Friday in June.

Dr. Guy moved the thanks of the Society to Dr. Clary for his able and impartial conduct as President, which having been unanimously acceded to, Dr. Clary acknowledged in appropriate terms.

The meeting then adjourned till seven o'clock, P. M.

Evening Session.

At the hour appointed the Society met in the Assembly Chamber of the Capitol. There was also present a highly respectable audience of ladies and gentlemen, members of the Legislature, &c.

Dr. Joslin having been introduced by the President, proceeded to deliver his address.

After which Dr. Springsteed moved that the thanks of the Society be offered to Dr. Joslin for his able and lucid address, and that a copy of the same be requested for publication

The motion was unanimously adopted.

On motion, it was ordered that 1500 copies of the address, together with the proceedings of this and the previous meeting, the Constitution and By-Laws, and a list of the members, be printed for the use of the Society.

The Society then adjourned *sine die*.

HENRY D. PAINE, *Secretary*.

THE SMALL DOSE OF HOMŒOPATHY.

By William Sharp, F.R.S., London.

"Knowledge is more beautiful than any apparel of words which can be put upon it."—Lord Bacon.

"'God is my witness, and all good men know that I have now labored fifty years with all care and pains in the illustration and amplification of my art; and that I have so certainly touched the mark whereat I aimed, that antiquity may seem to have nothing wherein it may exceed us beside the glory of invention, nor posterity any thing left but a certain small hope to add some things, as it is easy to add to former inventions.'

"So thought, about three centuries ago, the celebrated surgeon Ambrose Pare; and so think many in the present day. But it is in vain. Knowledge, notwithstanding, has increased, and is still increasing. At the very moment when Pare was expressing his self-complacent satisfaction, the veil which had covered the eyes of Europe for so many ages was being torn away; and at

the present time the limits of our intellectual vision are being extended more rapidly than at any previous period of the history of the world.

"If any one would see and participate in this progress of human knowledge, he must make an effort to free himself from the prejudices of education, from the power of preconceived opinion, and from the influence of habits of thought, and resolve to admit every conclusion which appears to be adequately supported by careful observation.

"The subject I have now undertaken is one of acknowledged difficulty. I think no one can have *felt* this difficulty more than myself. I shall be happy if I succeed in reducing it within its proper dimensions. For this purpose, after a few remarks on the general character and extent of our knowledge of natural things, to state the case and its difficulty, and then proceed to answer the three following questions:—

"I. Are we acquainted with any facts which render it probable that infinitesimal quantities of ponderable matter *may* act upon the living animal body? In other words, what does analogy teach us?

"II. Are there any facts which show the action of infinitesimal quantities of ponderable matter on the *healthy* body?

"III. What are the actual proofs in support of the assertion that such minute quantities of ponderable matter act remedially on the *diseased* body?

"Our knowledge of nature is obtained by observing facts or events, and their succession, by our bodily senses. Our ideas of external objects are produced by the impression which those objects are capable of making upon our minds, through the instrumentality of our senses. We can observe and experiment upon these facts or events, and the manner in which they succeed each other, to the extent which our senses permit us, but no further. The limit of the powers of our corporeal senses is the limit of our knowledge. This limitation is absolute. For example:—

"Sound is produced by vibrations of the air striking upon the organs of hearing. The various musical notes, from the lowest to the highest, are produced by the varying rapidity of these vibrations. The gravest sound is produced by about thirty vibrations in a second, the most acute by about a thousand. Each series of vibrations of the particles of the air is a fact or natural event, and when it strikes our ear we become acquainted with its existence by the sound perceived, provided the number of vibrations is not below thirty nor above a thousand in a second. These are the limits of our powers of observation of vibrations of the air. That there are vibrations slower than thirty and more rapid than a thousand in a second, cannot be doubted; and that there are living beings capable of perceiving them, is probable—the hare for example—but to us they are as though they did not exist.

"The same is true of the eye and the observation of colors. The vibrations of the ether (according to the undulatory theory of light) produce impressions upon the organ of seeing, and the varying rapidity of these vibrations enables us to perceive the different colors. The limits are still narrower than those of sound. The whole scale of color, from violet to crimson, lies between vibrations which number 458 millions of millions (or billions) and 727 millions of millions in a second. That there are vibrations of the luminiferous ether, varying in frequency beyond these two extremes, must be almost certain, and that there are eyes which can feel their impression is probable,—the owl and the bat, for example,—but to us they are as though they were not. We shall never, in this life, hear new sounds, nor see new colors.

"The senses of smell and touch are similarly limited. The hound can smell and the insect can touch what we cannot.

"In two ways art has rendered assistance to our sense of sight. We stand upon the deck of a ship, while crossing the Atlantic, our eye takes in a considerable prospect of the surrounding waters, the telescope extends this prospect; still, in either case, it has positive limits, which are dependent upon the powers of the eye. This prospect, vast as it seems to us at the time, bears a very small proportion to the real extent of the ocean.

"Again, bodies soon become divided till their particles are too small for the naked eye to perceive them. That they still exist, and are susceptible of much further subdivision, is rendered certain by the aid which the microscope affords us; we can now follow them with the eye till they are millions of times less than before; but our vision again ceases—we lose the particle—yet we cannot conclude that it has ceased to exist, or ceased to be divisible. There are animals as small as this particle, and the atoms of which they are made up must be considerably less than themselves. The particle we have lost may be capable of further division indefinitely; so that the divisions we can see may bear a much smaller proportion to those we cannot see, than the prospect which the deck of a ship affords us does to the rest of the unseen ocean.

"Beyond these limits our knowledge of external things cannot extend; they are impassable boundaries. We see how near they approach each other, and consequently how finite our knowledge is.

"Besides these there are limits of another kind which require to be noticed. They will be best explained, as the former have been, by an example or two.

"On the discovery of oxygen gas it was

concluded by LAVOISIER to be an element necessary to the processes of combustion and acidification; to be the sole supporter of combustion and the sole generator of acids; hypotheses were constructed and the name given accordingly. This was the limit of our knowledge on this subject at the time. A few years later it was discovered that a leaf of copper takes fire spontaneously and burns in chlorine gas, and that hydrogen and chlorine combine and form a powerful acid. Here then was a real extension of our knowledge.

"If we collect in a strong vessel two volumes of hydrogen and one of oxygen, it is well known that the contact of flame or an electric spark will cause an explosion, the gases disappear and a drop of water is produced. For some time it was believed that the agency of heat or of electricity was requisite to produce these mechanical and chemical phenomena. But it was afterwards found that if we insert a piece of cold spongy platinum into the mixture, this is sufficient to occasion the gases to explode, and the drop of water to be produced. Thus the previous limits of our knowledge were extended.

"These examples show that our knowledge of nature has not only a fixed limit, dependent on the powers of our bodily senses, but that it is also limited by a sliding scale, dependent upon the industry with which we use these powers. This is the boundary which has already so often been extended; these are the barriers which we may still hope to throw down.

"The small dose of the homœopathist, viewed in the light of this double limit, may be thus considered:—chemical tests follow the grain of medicinal substance to the third trituration, that is, till it has been divided into a million of parts, and a good eye, assisted by a powerful microscope, can follow it to the fourth or fifth trituration, beyond this it is absolutely lost to the perception of our sight. The sense of smell can detect musk to the fifth or sixth dilution. Everything that we know forbids us to conclude that the division of matter stops here, but our senses cannot follow it further. On the other hand, our power of observing the effects produced by these doses has no limit but that of the sliding scale. Admitting for the moment, what I think I shall afterwards prove, that effects are produced, it is evidently as easy for us to observe them after a dose of the thirtieth as after one of the third or of the first trituration. The same cautions are necessary, but nothing more.

"Another feature in the character of our knowledge of natural things is our ignorance of *modes of action*. This also is a result of the very limited powers of our bodily senses. The succession of events can be traced only for a few links, and we cannot discover how even these are connected together.

"A lucifer match is rubbed on a rough surface and it inflames. *How* friction produces such a result we know not. If it be said that friction evolves heat, and that heat inflames the match, the question returns, *how* does friction evolve heat? and *how* does heat inflame the match? No one can tell.

"No fact is better ascertained than that the moon is kept in its orbit round the earth, and the earth in its orbit round the sun, by the same force as that which causes a stone or an apple to fall to the ground. These bodies are separated by immense distances, how can they act upon each other? How is it possible for an inert lump of matter to influence another inert lump a hundred millions of miles off? It is by the force of gravitation; but what is gravity? and how does it act? We know not.

"If we throw a piece of the metal potassium upon ice, it instantly inflames, burns itself into the ice and disappears. Part of the ice has been melted, the water decomposed, its hydrogen burnt, and its oxygen has united with the metal and formed a portion of caustic potash, which is all that remains in the cavity of the ice. These extraordinary phenomena are the effect of chemical affinity, but what is that? and how does it act? No one can inform us.

"We can surround a seed with suitable proportions of air, warmth, and moisture, and can observe the gradual development of the germ, of the entire plant, and of the ripening seed. *How* have all these wonderful changes been effected? they are attributed to the vital force, but we know not in the least what this is, nor how it acts. We can examine the various tissues with our microscopes, and analyse them in our laboratories, and thus become acquainted with many new and beautiful facts, which have presented themselves in the course of the growth of our experimental plant. When we have reduced the mechanism to the simplest form, we find that it consists of minute vesicles, formed by an elastic transparent membrane composed of a substance somewhat resembling starch, and called *cellulose*. When we have obtained the ultimate chemical analysis, we find certain proportions of carbon, oxygen, and hydrogen, with occasionally an addition of nitrogen, sulphur, phosphorus, and a few metals or metallic oxides. We find nothing which reveals to us what *vitality* is, nor *how* the successive changes we have witnessed have been brought about.

"We take food and are nourished; we take medicines and are acted upon by them; we take poisons and die; but *how* these things act so as to produce such effects we know not.

"'What is the cause of health? and the gendering of disease?
Why should arsenic kill? and whence is the potency of antidotes?
Behold a morsel,—eat and die; the term of thy probation is expired;
Behold a potion,—drink and be alive; the limit of thy trial is enlarged.' TUPPER.

"If it be said that our food is converted into chyme in the stomach, and into chyle in the intestines, that this is absorbed by the lacteals and conveyed by the thoracic duct into the blood, and that thus we are nourished, I reply, all this is granted, but what then? The question remains as it was; *how* is all this done? No one can tell.

"Again, if it be said that medicines act on the nervous system, and stimulate the stomach, that they are sedatives and stimulants, emetics and purgatives, sudorifics and expectorants; what of all this? What are all these stimulating powers? how do they produce their effects, and how are these effects beneficial? No answer is given.

"The succession of events,—the steps by which an ultimate result is produced,—these, *within the limits described*, may be observed and experimented upon, but *how* each step is accomplished is beyond our ken. Of the recesses of Nature, of the secret chambers in which her operations are carried on, how forces are "correlative," how they can be changed into each other, how they act upon matter, how matter acts upon them, we are profoundly ignorant. Nevertheless, we believe what we see, without waiting till we can explain it.

"Such is the actual condition, the general character and extent of our knowledge of nature, and this consequence follows;—we are not entitled to reject anything which professes to be a *fact*, if supported by a sufficient amount of evidence, merely because it is inconsistent with our expectations, does not coincide with our previous opinions, or is not within the limits of our former experience. We are not justified in concluding against a statement of fact by *à priori* reasoning or theoretical considerations. Analogies may render an assertion probable or the contrary, but no reasoning is conclusive against a matter of fact. The truth or falsehood of the announcement of a fact cannot be settled by reasoning or argumentation, it must be decided by evidence.

"The case to be stated is this:—when a remedy has been chosen in accordance with the law of Homœopathy, an inconceivably small quantity is often a sufficient dose.

"The difficulty lies in the incredibility of this statement.

"Be it well observed that the matter in hand is not to account for the efficacy of the small doses, but to prove that they are efficacious. The difficulty is not how to explain their action, but how to believe it.

"A story is told of the Royal Society, that on a certain occasion it was proposed to that learned body to explain how it was that, when a live fish was put into a basin quite full of water, none overflowed. After sundry grave hypotheses had been propounded and objections urged, it was at length proposed to try the experiment. So with this medical difficulty; leaving explanations, let us first try the experiment as a matter of fact. The whole case is embraced by the three questions already proposed.

"I. Are we acquainted with any facts which render it probable that infinitesimal quantities of ponderable matter *may* act upon the living animal body? In other words, what does analogy teach us?

Look at that bright star! so remote that the astronomer with his telescope cannot calculate its distance, and yet its brilliant beams of light strike upon the eye and convince the merest child of its existence. What a vivid flash that was, and how loud the thunder! See yonder oak riven to its centre,—what an irresistible force, and yet the chemist, with his most delicate balance, cannot perceive its weight. Here is a mass of iron, weighing a thousand pounds, moving rapidly upwards, notwithstanding the attraction of the earth to this amount, without any visible link, towards another small bent piece of iron a foot long, encircled with the galvanic current;—and now falling heavily to the ground the instant that current is arrested. What a mysterious, albeit very visible effect from an invisible, impalpable, imponderable power, generated by such simple means. How warm the fire feels while we stand at the distance of some feet from the hearth! We can imagine how heat will go up the chimney, because heated air is lighter than cold air, and will therefore ascend; but how does the warmth get across horizontally to our legs! Oh, it is radiant heat or caloric, which travels in right lines in every direction. Very well; but what is radiant heat or caloric? What is light? What is electricity? What is magnetism? Several answers are given by philosophers to these questions. Taking light as the example, there are two modes of explaining it. According to NEWTON, light consists of *material particles* emitted by luminous bodies, and moving through space with a velocity of 192,000 miles in a second, and these particles striking the eye produce the sensation of light. According to the other explanation of the phenomena, light consists in an undulating or vibratory movement, which, when it reaches the eye, excites the sensation of light in the same manner as the sensation of sound is excited in the ear by the vibrations of the air. It is obvious that this theory also presumes the existence of a *material medium*, through and by which the vibrations can be transmitted; in fact, it supposes that an exceedingly thin and elastic medium, called ether,

fills all space. For our present purpose it is unimportant which theory is regarded as the true one, inasmuch as both assume that *matter in some form* is concerned in producing the various impressions of light and color upon the living animal body. The effects are produced by imponderable but not by immaterial agents. To convey some faint notion of excessive minuteness, it may be mentioned that the length of an undulation of the extreme violet ray of light is 0·0000167 of an inch; the number of undulations in an inch is 59,750; and the number of undulations in a second is 727,000,000,000,000 (727 billions); while the corresponding numbers for the indigo ray are—length, 0·0000185 of an inch; 54,070 undulations in an inch; and 658,000,000,000,000 (658 bilions) in a second. The other rays differ in similar proportions. 'That man,' says HERSCHEL, 'should be able to measure with certainty such minute portions of space and time is not a little wonderful; for it may be observed, whatever theory of light we adopt, these periods and these spaces have a *real existence*, being in fact deduced by NEWTON from direct measurements, and involving nothing hypothetical, but the names which have been given them.'

"Whether therefore light be viewed as material particles emitted continuously, and in all directions, by luminous bodies, or as the vibrations of an elastic material medium, it is, in either case, dependent upon *matter* for its existence or production; it is matter, but exceedingly rare, subtile, and so minutely divided as to be to us absolutely imponderable.

"It is probable that heat, electricity, and magnetism are motions, varying in kind, of the same ether.

"That space is occupied by minute particles of matter admits of being proved in another manner, quite independent of these observations on light. It has been ascertained by astronomers that one of the comets, called *Encke's*, which is a body not denser than a small cloud of steam, for the stars are seen through it without any diminution of their brilliancy, and which revolves round the sun in 1208 days, has its period slightly diminished during each revolution. It is obvious that its motion is impeded by a *resisting medium*, by which its centrifugal force is diminished, and consequently the relative power of gravity is increased; this brings the comet nearer to the sun, its orbit becomes contracted, and the time occupied by a revolution shortened. Thus, by another series of observations, we arrive at the same conclusion that there exists a rare, subtile, and *imponderable form* of minutely-divided matter.

"Infinitesimal quantities of this imponderable matter are capable of acting energetically, and *they do so act* habitually, producing such impressions as those of light, etc., upon the living animal body.

"Reasoning, then, from analogy, we may conclude it to be *probable* that other forms of matter, even though reduced by the successive triturations into *similarly small dimensions*, may also act, and act powerfully, upon the living body.

"II. Are there any facts which show the action of infinitesimal quantities of ponderable matter upon the *healthy* body?

"The beautiful adaptation of the different departments of nature to each other is justly adduced as a demonstration that the whole has been created and arranged under the guidance of Infinite Wisdom and Power. In nothing is this adaptation more conspicuous than in the appropriate fitness of the corporeal senses of man to the surrounding world.

"So far as we are cognizant of the material creation, it is disposed under the five following forms:—solid bodies, liquids, gases or airs, imponderable ether, and minutely divided particles of ponderable bodies. For the appreciation of these various forms of matter we have five senses. The sense of touch, mainly conversant with solid bodies; that of taste, which is impressed by liquids only; the delicate organ of hearing, which can perceive the vibratory movements of gases or airs; the still more delicate organ of the eye, capable of receiving impressions from the undulations of the imponderable ether; and, lastly, the sense of smell, adapted to the condition of the particles of bodies, when they have become so divided as to be infinitesimal, that is, indefinitely small and imponderable.

"It is this form of matter which we have now specially to consider. The particles separated from larger masses, which become by degrees so small as to elude in succession the perception of all our senses, and perhaps at length are reduced to a state similar to the ether.

"A cubic inch of platinum, the heaviest body we are acquainted with, weighs upwards of 5000 grains. A cubic inch of hydrogen, the lightest body which affects our balances, weighs 2 grains. These balances, by ingenious contrivances, are made very sensitive. I have one which readily weighs 0·005, or five-thousandths of a grain. Others have been constructed still more delicate; but the particles we are now examining are far too light for any balance to appreciate.

"Mechanical division can be carried to an almost incredible degree. Gold, in gilding, may be divided into particles at least one thousand four hundred millionths of a square inch in size, and yet possess the colour and all other characters of the largest mass. Linen yarn has been spun so that a distinctly visible portion could not have weighed the 127 millionth of a grain; and yet this, so

far from being an ultimate particle of matter, must have contained more than one vegetable fibre, that fibre itself being of complex organization, and built up of an indefinitely great number of more simple forms of matter.

"The perfection of modern chemistry is such that a quantity of silver, equal to the billionth of a cubic line, can be readily detected.

"That particles become divided into less portions than is here shown in these examples is evident from the daily observation of the sense of smell. The violet fills even a royal apartment with its sweet odor, which is thus readily perceived, but which absolutely eludes every other mode of observation. How inconceivably small must be the particles of all odors! And yet how obviously material they are.

"A grain of musk may be exposed for a long period, and be unceasingly emitting particles, easily appreciated by the sense of smell, yet has it not lost in weight what the most sensitive balance can detect.

"These are instances of infinitesimal quantities of matter acting upon the *healthy* body.

"Contagious malaria constitute a large class of agents whose power of injuriously acting upon our healthy body is so greatly dreaded, and no one has yet doubted that they are material. Who voluntarily crosses the Pontine Marshes at certain seasons of the year, or exposes himself to the plague of Constantinople, or the yellow fever of the West Indies? The microscope cannot show these terrible particles, nor can chemical analysis detect them. Ozone perhaps decomposes them.

"To come nearer home, a clergyman visits a patient in scarlet fever, but does not touch him, he afterwards calls upon a friend, and shakes the hand of one of the children as he passes her on the stair case. The next day this child sickens with the scarlet fever, and her brothers and sisters take it from her; no other connection can be traced. This is no uncommon occurrence, and no one doubts the communication of infection in such a manner, neither is it doubted that the infection itself is something material. What is the *weight* of the particle of matter thus conveyed? Is it heavier than the millionth of a grain of *Belladonna*, which, it is asserted by homœopathists, is sufficient, when given at short intervals, to arrest the progress of such a case?

"These, then, are also instances of infinitesimally small quantities of matter acting upon the living body in *health*.

"There are numerous liquids which have the power of affecting the healthy body, and some of them of taking away life, and yet in each instance the quantity of the active ingredient is so exceedingly small that hitherto no means have been effectual in detecting it.

"The vaccine matter has been so often mentioned that I will not allude to it further.

"Several animals are furnished with poisonous liquids, which, when injected into a wound, occasion the disease or death of the wounded animal. Serpents, bees, scorpions, and spiders are well-known examples. In the venomous serpents there is found an apparatus of poison-fangs, constituting perhaps the most terrible weapons of attack met with in the animal creation. The poison-teeth are two in number, placed in the upper jaw, when not in use they are laid flat upon the roof of the mouth; but when the animal is irritated, they are plucked up from their concealment, and stand out like two long lancets. Each fang is traversed by a canal, through which the poison flows. The gland which secretes the poison is composed of cells, communicating with a duct by which the venom is conveyed to the tooth. The poison-gland is covered by a muscle which is attached to a thin fibrous line. This is part of the muscle which closes the jaw, so that the same power which strikes the teeth into the viper's prey, compresses at the same moment the bag of poison, and forces it through the fangs into the wound.

"The quantity of poison contained in the gland scarcely exceeds a drop, but the smallest portion of this liquid taken upon the point of a needle, and inserted by a slight puncture into the skin of an animal, is sufficient to produce all its poisonous effects. From some serpents it produces almost immediate death. FONTANA first subjected it to chemical analysis, and sacrificed many hundred vipers in his experiments. Others have succeeded him in these labors, but nothing peculiar has been discovered. The poison is a yellow liquid, and has not been distinguished chemically from simple gum-water.

"Here are examples of infinitesimal quantities of ponderable matter acting with frightful energy upon the *healthy* body.

"Medicinal substances furnish other proofs. I must content myself with a single example. Inappreciable quantities of *Ipecacuanha* give an affirmative answer to our present question so decisive and convincing, that I make no apology for extractihg the following cases from that well-known and highly respectable allopathic periodical the *London Medical and Physical Journal*:—

"'An apprentice of mine, naturally healthful, and of an active disposition, is invariably affected with a most distressing and protracted sneezing on the most careful dispensing of the smallest quantity of *Ipecacuanha*. A more continued application of it, such for instance as happens in the preparation of the compound powder, is followed with dyspnœa (difficulty of breathing), cough, and spitting of blood. Having oc-

casion some time ago to compound the medicine for several days together, he became seriously affected by it, in the way just stated, and he has not enjoyed full health since. It has evidently produced a disposition to asthma, and an aptitude for pulmonary ailment, which he had not used to possess.'

"'In the year 1787 or 8, in pounding the root to make the *Ipecacuanha wine*, I was suddenly affected with violent and reiterated sneezings, with a very profuse defluxion from the eyes and nose; these symptoms continued without intermission for many hours, accompanied by great heat and anguish throughout the cavity of the thorax, and the most oppressive dyspnœa. Exhausted by the violence of the attack, I was conveyed to bed, where, supported, for I was unable to lie down, I remained more or less afflicted till the next morning. I arose extremely weakened, and with all the usual appearances of a severe catarrh. From this date I have been perpetually tormented by violent catarrhs. The slightest motion of the simple or compound powder of *Ipecacuanha* superinduces precisely similar, but more gentle effects. When weighing or mixing these powders afterwards, I carefully guarded my mouth and nose by a cloth; but an incautious removal of it for inspiration, till perhaps half an hour had elapsed, after the medicine was finished, occasioned the same inconveniences. At length I was compelled to quit the shop when *Ipecacuanha* was in hand; indeed, I have frequently entered my own, or the shop of a stranger, long after it had been used, and by the instant recurrence of these very distressing sensations have been able too accurately to ascertain the recent exposure of this drug.'

"'I never designedly had recourse to *Ipecacuanha* for more than twenty years. Two accidents lately, within a few weeks of each other, afforded me the opportunity of determining its present effects when inwardly administered. A friend hearing me cough in the street, presented me with a few lozenges; I took two at once; they were scarcely dissolved, ere I felt a pungent roughness in every part of the mouth, exciting a great secretion of saliva; this, it is worthy of noting, was the reverse in the preceding attacks, when the excretory ducts uniformly denied their offices, and occasioned a disagreeable dryness of the mucous membrane. As this acrid sensation extended to the lips, they became prodigiously swollen and inflamed. On the fauces I experienced the like effects, with a most teasing itching irritation; it descended the trachea, producing pain and dyspnœa; it likewise proceeded down the œsophagus; creating a slight heat in the stomach, and passed with moderate gripings throughout the intestinal canal.'

"'Soon after, a powder was brought to my house, with an order to prepare more of the same kind. I conveyed a few particles to my tongue to discover its composition; I quickly experienced those feelings in the mouth and lips which arose from the lozenges before, but in a milder degree, and they extended no further. Upon referring to the prescription, I found there was one grain of *Ipecacuanha* and ten of *Calcined Magnesia*. The incident gave birth to the idea that the former strange affection had originated from the same cause as the latter, and upon inquiry my suspicion was confirmed; they were *Ipecacuanha* lozenges which I had swallowed . . . . Snuff and other stimulating powders excite no more irritation on me than on others.'

"'One of the Editors recollects a somewhat similar effect produced on his father.'

"'To these three cases (the two preceding, and one by Mr. Royston, alluded to in January 9, 1809), I shall now add two in females, who seem to have been affected in so similar a manner by the subtile effluvia of *Ipecacuanha*, that to enumerate their symptoms would be only to repeat what has already been given respecting those effects.

"'The first of these cases is that of a lady, now about fifty, the wife of a surgeon, and mother of a numerous family. The general state of health has always been good, her disposition lively and active, and by no means possessing anything of that valetudinarian irritability which marks striking peculiarity of constitution. She has been much in the habit, when the hurry of business required it, of assisting her husband in dispensing medicines. This gave rise to her first discovery of the effects of *Ipecacuanha* on her habit. I had an opportunity of remarking this fact about eighteen months ago, being on a professional visit at her house, while her husband labored under a severe fever. She was about to dispense one of my prescriptions in which some *Ipecacuanha* had been ordered, and the moment she saw what the composition was, she ran to a distant part of the house, refusing to dispense it. This excited my curiosity to find the cause. On following her she explained it, and with some degree of anxiety looked round, lest some of the doors between her and the shop should have been left open while the prescription was about to be dispensed. As my stay was protracted some days, I had occasion to see these fears repeatedly excited. One forenoon in particular, while she was in her kitchen, a considerable distance from the shop (two passage-doors being between herself and it), while she could neither see nor know beforehand that *Ipecacuanha*, which was the case, was weighing, she called out with vehemence to have the doors closed, on account of the sensations she was beginning to feel.'

"'The second instance came to my knowledge only the day before yesterday. The lady who is the subject of it called on me on her mother's account, who was indisposed, and being shown into my room, took up your last Journal, which lay on my table, to amuse herself till my appearance. On my entering the room she told me she had been reading my book, and the part which she accidentally opened was Mr. B.'s communication; she added, with a smile, "This is far from so uncommon a case as this gentleman seems to think, for I myself am afflicted by it in the same manner;" and then went into a considerable detail of the symptoms it excited in her. The catarrhal affection and sneezing she described as particularly distressing. The copious flow was so acrid as to excoriate, in a few hours, the parts over which it fell. Her upper lip and the alæ of the nostrils were swelled. But what created in her the most alarm was its effects on her eyes. They became swelled and stiff, and sight was diminished. The eyelids tumefied so much that the eyes were sunk almost out of sight, which seemed to be the chief cause of the diminution of vision; the discharge from her eyes was nearly as great as that from her nose, and little less acrid . . . . No catarrhal effects were excited in her by snuff.'

"'I know a lady who was always seized with asthma whenever *Ipecacuanha* root was pounded in the shop; so sensible was she of this effect, that it was in vain to conceal from her what was going on in the mortar. This occurred about thirty years ago in the lady of the physician (Dr. Buckham, of Wooler) to whom I was first a pupil, and I was twice the innocent cause of the complaint myself. I thought by her being in a remote part of the house she could not be affected; but it was almost immediately felt, and the paroxysm lasted many hours. This lady was exquisitely nervous.

"'I have been informed of different cases almost similar; they were all women, but conceiving the observation a common one, I did not note them.'

"Two similar cases, the wives of medical men, are given in vol. xxiv. page 233, by Dr. Scott. One attack, caused by being near her husband at the time he put some *Ipecacuanha* into a bottle, was so violent as *nearly to prove fatal*. There was a remarkable stricture about the throat and chest, with a very troublesome shortness of breathing, with a particular kind of wheezing noise. The symptoms were aggravated at night. 'At three o'clock in the morning she was gasping for breath at a window, pale as death, her pulse scarcely to be felt, and in the utmost immediate danger of suffocation. She became easier about eleven A. M., till about eleven, P. M. *The same scene was continued eight days and nights successively.*'

"'Mr. Leighton, a very eminent surgeon at Newcastle, very nearly lost his wife in a similar manner.'

"Here, then, are undeniable proofs from odors, from contagious malaria, from animal poisons, and from medicinal substances, from which it may be strongly concluded that infinitesimal quantities of ponderable matter do act with great and sometimes with destructive, energy upon the *healthy* body.

(*To be continued.*)

THE FORCE OF EVIDENCE ALONE LEADS TO FAITH IN HOMŒOPATHY.

The human mind hesitates to admit what is new or extraordinary. It is common for one person to charge another with credulity, but never suspects himself capable of it. The superficial or no-thinker sneeringly declares that the people are disposed to believe on slight evidence or no evidence at all. This is an error, the reverse being the case. We do not, by any means, intend to complain of the doubting tendency of the human mind, although it may run into an obstinate, unreasonable rejection of truths which are proved. Yet it is a protection against a too-ready reception of what is not established by competent evidence. The history of many valuable discoveries in science and art, which at the beginning were not only rejected for absurdities, but the discoverers and those who believed were personally ridiculed before the public, and also in private before the intelligent and learned, who were influenced by the common tendency of human minds to scepticism.

This subject, if better understood, would greatly facilitate the spread of truth, which, as is well known, has up-hill work in its progress. As it is our special duty to promulgate Homœopathy, pure Homœopathy, we would employ this doubting tendency to illustrate some things in the history of that system of medicine.

Long previously to the announcement by Hahnemann of his system, the confidence of the people in Allopathy began to diminish. And notwithstanding it was manifest that a safer and a more certain mode of treatment of diseases was demanded by the people, as well as by some of the more intelligent of

the profession, yet there was no sudden belief in Homœopathy, for those who embraced it observed great caution, and pursued an unusually thorough investigation of it, for nothing short of the fullest conviction of its truth, based upon sufficient evidence, arising out of demonstrations and clear definitions, would satisfy. Some persons, of little faith in Homœopathy, because of a very limited investigation, employ it in mild cases, but in more severe affections yield what little belief they have in it, and submit to measures which have been proved a thousand times to be uncertain and unsafe. The same remark applies to a class of physicians; while others have battled against Hahnemann's system step by step, have taken nothing for granted, but obstinately persisted in resisting every principle and rule of practice, until compelled to believe by the force of evidence.

This has worked well for Homœopathy, for never did a system undergo such critical and able examination. She courted the closest scrutiny, and does so yet. She demands faith in no one without the fullest proof. There are still those who refuse to investigate her claims; we regret to be compelled to admit that such there are, and such there will be so long as the profession is cursed with illiterate, indolent and selfish members.

It does not require talent, nor learning, nor much labor, to cry *humbug*. Nothing disgraces the profession more than the ridicule it throws upon doctrines, without examination, that may be announced by a member of it, which do not agree with what is commonly received. To such a degree has this been carried that the people cannot safely rely upon hardly anything which the profession puts forth. There has been so much unscientific writing; so much secret personal opposition; so much downright misrepresentation; so many cliquish measures for selfish purposes; so much private interest, and so little dignified and honorable deportment among medical men; so little charitable judgment of one another, that honesty, real honesty in thought and act, is so rarely developed, that there is no longer such a thing as credulity among the people, nor among physicians. Physicians doubt, and so do the people. Physicians cry *humbug*, and so do the people. Many of the latter regard medicine as a useless and an expensive article, and many of the former virtually join them in that opinion. Allopathy says, "Homœopathy is a do-nothing system," but she cures more cases than Allopathy, as is now established. The just inference drawn by the people from such views, furnished by medical men is, that it is safest to permit diseases to take their course undisturbed by medication. Old School physicians begin to feel the effects of their folly in this respect, and have lately undertaken to regain their position by the admission that the "small doses" have power to influence the human organism. But this will not avail if they adhere to Allopathy. If the members of the profession could be induced calmly to investigate Homœopathy by the rules laid down by Hahnemann, but a short time would elapse before either, that system would beyond a doubt be proved false, or, on the contrary, proved to each one what those who have thus examined it declare, that it is the only scientific mode of treating human maladies. Is there anything in this unreasonable? We think not. Is it not the only course left for medical men to pursue to settle their differences? We know of none other.

The conduct of homœopathists generally, is praiseworthy in the highest degree. Homœopathy is popular, and is becoming more so daily. This has arisen, not from her theory, not from her principles as laid down in the books, for comparatively few have studied these, but alone from the cures which have taken place by her. Every true homœopathist of but a few years' practice knows, that this mode of treatment can effect cures of diseases; and in cases, too, in which it is notorious that allopathic practice uniformly fails. Now, with a knowledge of this fact, if homœopathists were a selfish and dishonest "tribe," as is often asserted by a vulgar medical print of this city, and responded to by nearly all the allopathic journals, they have an unusual way of showing their selfishness and their dishonesty. One would suppose that concealment would answer best for a dishonest purpose, for such is the common practice, especially among *quacks*. Concealment is,

we were about to write, an essential attribute of *quackery*. Homœopathists conceal nothing. They tell the world what they do, and the reason for it. Therefore we will, in the gentlest manner, suggest to our allopathic brethren that when they charge that homœopathists are quacks, and their system quackery, they handle an instrument of two edges, which may cut themselves; we have heard many people say that this has already happened, for they see a gaping wound, of an unhealthy look, which grows worse and worse, notwithstanding the vigilance, learning, and skill of the most eminent men in Allopathy.

Let us hear no more of the credulity of physicians and of people because they have faith in Homœopathy.

LECTURE ON HOMŒOPATHY.

By Dr. G. C. Holland.

On the evening of Monday, the 17th ult., a public lecture was delivered in the Council Hall of Sheffield by Dr. G. C. Holland, on the "Theory and Practice of Homœopathy, and an Exposition of the Principles explanatory of the Action of Homœopathic Remedies," to a numerous and respectable audience, who listened attentively, and frequently expressed their approbation of the sentiments of the lecturer in a marked manner. Alderman Henry E. Hoole occupied the chair.

"The lecture was illustrated by three illuminated diagrams—one representing the brain, the spinal cord, and the principal nerves connected with it; another the face and the main nerves; and the third, the stomach."

From the two leading local journals, the *Sheffield Times* and the *Sheffield Free Press*, we gather the following analysis of the learned lecturer's interesting discourse.

He commenced his lecture by combating the prejudices which every new theory or system had to encounter.

"The Bishop of Salzburg was burnt for hazarding the opinion that, as the earth was spherical, it was possible that there were inhabitants at our antipodes. Cromwell, the bold, the daring, the independent, lost his life from the prejudice of his physicians. He was attacked with the ague, and although Peruvian bark had been introduced a few years before, and was an antidote for it, yet the physicians of the day would not apply it.

"He stated that in 1848-9 he entered upon the investigation of the functions of the nervous system, and when he had proceeded in his physiological inquiry to the 300th page, he was startled at the conclusion to which his own principles led, viz., that according to these, small or minute doses of remedies ought to be capable of affecting the condition of the vital powers. He then, he remarked, knew nothing of Homœopathy, nor was he acquainted with a homœopath, either professional or lay. In order to test the correctness of his principles, he began to try the efficiency of minute doses—a single drop of a well-known and not very active tincture, and afterwards half a drop, and the fourth of a drop—and was astonished to find that the remedies in these minute quantities invariably gave evidence of their efficiency. He then remarked that the whole of his doctrine in regard to the origin and nature of diseases rested on his investigations into the functions of the nervous system. This subject had occupied the attention of the medical mind from the time of Hippocrates to the present day. The early opinion was, that all diseases originated in the morbid or deteriorated condition of the blood. Within the last few centuries it had been contended that diseases were to be traced to an alteration in the condition of the solids of the body. His own view was that all diseases were originally to be referred to the disordered states of the nervous system. He proceeded to illustrate and prove the justness of his view by showing the mode in which the heart, the stomach, and the bowels were affected through the nervous system altogether, by mental, physical, and chemical causes, during life and after death. In support of his argument he related several of his own experiments. He then gave a general view of the nervous system, the brain, the cerebellum, the medulla oblongata, the spinal cord, the sympathetic nerve, the ganglia, and the plexuses, which are formed by the different nerves. He showed how nervous matter is distributed to the various organs of the body, which he stated was unquestionably the channel through which the animating power, the nervous fluid, principle or agent was transmitted to every molecule of living or organic substance. This part of the lecture was illustrated by the colored diagrams already alluded to, and we must say that Dr. Holland certainly succeeded in rendering a difficult scientific subject easy of comprehension to the ordinary non-professional understanding. He dwelt on this division of his lecture, as it was the foundation on which he based his views concerning the origin, nature, and treatment of disease. He next proceeded to explain the origin and nature of disease by analyzing the cause and nature of inflammation, and especially inflammation of the lungs and of the windpipe. He explained the manner in which the animal system is affected in the first stage of the disease and the subsequent stages, in the last of which the disease is frequently incurable. He pointed out the changes in the condition of the nervous system co-existing with these different stages, and stated that the alterations in the properties of the blood, and of all other fluids of the body, and in the character of the circulation, were decidedly effects which were to be traced to the primary and subsequent modifications in the vital condition of the nervous system. He asserted that it was this system alone which gave to all other parts of the body the power of performing their respective functions, whether these functions were the secretion of gastric juice, of bile, of the peculiar secretions of the bowels, of the skin, of the kidneys, and in fact every vital action that enters into the aggregate of the functions of life. He then explained in what manner homœopathic remedies act. The mode in which remedies influence the animal system has not, he stated, been clearly defined by writers. The prevalent opinion was, that they acted through the blood or the circulation. The lecturer contended they could act in one mode only, through the nervous system, and that all changes in the condition of disease were to be ascribed to the altered state of the nerves of the part or of the organ affected. If the remedies mixed with the blood they could still act only on nervous matter, and through this on disease. The larger arteries were simply carriers of the blood, and in them it produced no vital results. It must be transmitted to the capillaries, or the minute vessels, of which organs were principally formed—vessels so small that they could be seen only by the aid of the microscope. When the remedies, if they were carried along by the current of the blood, reached these minute vessels, they would in this situation modify the condition of nervous matter, and this again would alter the condition of other tissues, and in this manner disease would be influenced by the remedial agents employed. On this view the lecturer explained the mode in which homœopathic remedies act on the vital powers. Minute as the doses are, they are sufficiently powerful

to modify the condition of the nerves, and hence the fluids and tissues which enter into the composition of every organ of the body. He then brought forward remarkable instances which proved the great changes produced in the state of well-known metals and mineral waters, by the addition of substances perfectly homœopathic in quantities. These facts rested on the experiments of chemists and philosophers. He then argued that if such changes were produced in inorganic substances by the addition of minute quantities of other materials, surely it was reasonable to infer that minute doses of active remedial agents would influence the properties of life, which must possess an extraordinary degree of susceptibility. The lecturer explained what he understood by the homœopathic law, 'like cures like,' which, he observed, was very imperfectly understood by the opponents of Homœopathy. He argued the matter in the following manner. All remedies possessed peculiar properties, and no two remedies were alike in their composition and in their chemical qualities; consequently their action would be different. This necessarily followed from a difference in their properties. It therefore became the duty of the enlightened practitioner to ascertain the action of each of the remedies which he employed on the healthy and diseased states of the body. Hahnemann, the discoverer of Homœopathy, had done this. He was occupied many years in tracing the action of important remedies on the vital powers, and that some he found affected this organ particularly, that another organ, and so on. It was then he saw clearly that a remedy which most promptly cured any given disease, was one that affected the organ in which it was seated the most powerfully in health, when the remedy was administered in excess. Why should a remedy that acted chiefly on the bowels be given to cure an affection of the lungs? or why should a remedy that acted almost exclusively on the kidneys, the skin, or the lungs, be given to cure an affection of the liver? Remedies should be given that influenced directly the condition of the organ diseased, otherwise serious mischief would be done to organs that were comparatively healthy, which would aggravate the existing malady. The homœopath gives remedies which have a specific action on the organ for which they are prescribed—organs suffering from disease; and consequently he does not waste the potency of these remedies, by forcing them, from any admixture with other medicinal substances, to disorder the rest of the animal system; causing, in fact, far more disease than they remove. In many cases the remedy was much more to be dreaded than the disease for which it was prescribed, and it not unfrequently left behind effects from which the individual, whether young or old, never recovered."

As instances of the correctness of the theory of like producing like he gave the following illustrations.

"*Arsenic*, when given in excess, produced cancerous sores and yet it was the best curative for such sores. *Mercury* killed one-half of mankind. Nothing produced sore throats and fever sooner than *Mercury;* and yet *Mercury* was the sheet-anchor of the allopaths in these cases. *Tartar Emetic* was the best remedy for inflammation of the lungs; and yet Magendie, a celebrated French physician, had discovered that nothing induced congestion and inflammation of the lungs sooner than this remedy. *Nux Vomica*, which was an intense bitter—and greatly used by brewers, as a substitute for hops, on account of its cheapness—was an excellent remedy for spasms and the palsy; and yet it created those complaints. He alluded to the case of a man who had been drinking a glass or two of beer in a public house, and was shortly after attacked with spasms. He (Dr. Holland) suspected that the beer had been adulterated, and went to test it himself, and it acted upon him as it did upon his informant. He was confident that this proceeded from the *Nux Vomica* used by the brewer. These were instances of like producing like."

The lecturer then proceeded to show,

"That the active remedies which the allopathic practitioner used were, unknown to himself, effecting a cure (when they acted at all curatively and beneficially) according to the law of Hahnemann, 'like cures like,' *similia similibus curantur*. He gave various illustrations of this fact, and asked why the allopath gave a remedy in disease of the lungs which he would not prescribe for disease of the liver or the kidneys, unless he knew from his experience that it would affect the lungs? He gives it because he believes it has a particular or specific action on the morbid condition of the lungs, and so on in the treatment of other diseased states of the body. The homœopath does this in every case, and from knowing (from the previous trials upon the healthy) the specific action of his remedies, it is not necessary to give large doses. Experience teaches him that minute quantities of his remedies, correctly prescribed, will effect the object in view. Some of the most valuable of the homœopathic remedies had been lately employed by the opponents of Homœopathy, without any acknowledgment whence the idea of trying them was derived, and that they were even given in homœopathic quantities, and according to the opponents themselves, with very great success, and were recommended by them to the medical profession at large."

Instancing Dr. Glover's recent application of *Phosphorus* in cases of consumption, which had long been one of the chief remedies of the homœopaths, Dr. Holland observed it was rather too bad to steal, and

"Abuse the very men who argued in favor of the employment of these remedies. He then stated that he was willing to meet any medical gentleman of Sheffield to discuss publicly the respective merits of the two systems, and he challenged any one of them to a public discussion, on condition that they would allow both systems to be fairly examined."

And he concluded by saying that

"If he had not succeeded in convincing any one of the efficacy of the system he advocated, yet he should be amply rewarded if he had only been the means of dispelling the unjust prejudices many entertained against the system, and if it induced them to inquire further into the subject."

The Chairman then inquired if any medical gentlemen present felt disposed to accept Dr. Holland's challenge; but no response being given, a vote of thanks to the Doctor for his very interesting lecture was duly moved, seconded, and carried by acclamation, as was also one to the Chairman, and the meeting separated.—*Hom. Times.*

THE OPPOSITION—ITS TENDENCY.

The great truths promulgated by Hahnemann are working their way into the minds of the profession and of the people. Allopathy, which is a sort of classic name for *quackery*, would be denounced everywhere, were it not that it is still advocated by men who have some reputation for learning and honesty. The people generally do not seem to be aware that a person may be learned and honest, but deluded, and zealously advocate doctrines prejudicial to the happiness of the human family. Nevertheless such is the fact, and especially so is it in medicine. It is also true that many intelligent people

understand the doctrines promulgated by Hahnemann, while few physicians, comparatively, have an accurate perception of them.

The following extract shows that even when a principle is accurately defined, the writer does not know how to trace it; nor does he know in what conditions to apply it; nor does he recognise it out of the words which express or define it. Several things in the extract from the *Medical Times and Gazette* have been contradicted again and again, and our readers would consider it an unnecessary work for us at this time to show that many of the statements have no more analogy to the subject propounded than the system of pure *quackery*, Allopathy, has to Homœopathy. We therefore leave Mr. Headland's remarks with all their force against Hahnemann's doctrines; for it is a fact, that when an antagonist deals unfairly, or mistakes points at issue, or reasons falsely when the points are properly stated, or mixes his opposition with falsehoods, tends to aid the progress of the very thing to which such a course is designed to oppose and demolish. It is not unlikely that the advocates of that pernicious system of quackery—Allopathy—have done more by their misrepresentations of Homœopathy, and by decrying the character of her practitioners, to induce an inquiry by competent and unprejudiced persons to fairly and fully investigate her claims, than even her success in the cure of diseases. Having for years noted the course of the opposition, and endeavored to judge of its influence, we are prepared to say, that if we thought it best to publish any more controversial papers, we could not do better than to reproduce in our columns the articles of our opponents without note or comment.

"HOMŒOPATHIC DELUSION."

Mr. Headland, in his recent work on the action of medicines on the system, thus notices this transcendental humbug:—

"The rule of the disciples of Hahnemann is, *Similia similibus curantur;* or, diseases are to be cured by remedies which shall produce effects similar to them. Now, if this were the case, the majority of disorders would be hopelessly incurable. We know of no medicines that are capable of producing such affections as ague, small-pox, or phthisis: and when such remedies are known, their employment would certainly be singularly objectionable. Who would administer strychnia in tetanus, opium in congestion of the brain, or irritants in gastrodynia? The arguments alleged in support of the theory are of the most fallacious kind. For example, it is said that diaphoretics cured the sweating sickness, and purgatives are given with advantage in diarrhœa, on the homœopathic principle. But is should be observed that the sweating in one case, and diarrhœa in the other, are the attempts of Nature to get rid of the disease by eliminating a poison; and that, in seconding these attempts, we are availing ourselves of an agency which does not resemble the disease, but is like to the natural mode of cure. Such treatment depends, in fact, upon the principle which will have to be considered next in order. The homœopathists would work a strange revolution in the Materia Medica. Charcoal, silica, and other substances supposed to be inert, appear as remedies of wonderful efficacy. It is said that belladonna produces a state like scarlatina, and also a condition resembling hydrophobia, and thus cures both of these disorders. Of these three propositions, it is almost needless to say that all are equally erroneous. Further, an experimental trial of this principle was made by Andral on a large number of patients at the Academie in Paris, with the assistance of the homœopathists themselves. The medicines were carefully and fairly administered, but in no one instance were they successful."—*Medical Times and Gazette, Nov.* 20, 1852.

THE HOMŒOPATHIC MEDICAL COLLEGE OF PENNSYLVANIA.

We had the pleasure of being present at the commencement of the above named college on the 1st inst. Our readers probably know that the institution under notice was chartered by the Legislature of Pennsylvania about five years ago, and that it is located in the city of Philadelphia. This college has authority by law to confer the ordinary degree of *doctor in medicine* like other colleges, and requires the same qualifications to entitle a candidate to that degree; but in addition, by virtue of a special act of the Legislature of that State, it confers the degree of doctor of homœopathic medicine.

The number of students has gradually increased from year to year in a ratio encouraging to the trustees and to the faculty. One hundred and three matriculated at the session just closed, of which number fifty-

five graduated. It is but just for us to say that we never saw a class of graduates, to appearance, more intelligent. They come from different parts of our country, and we do not doubt their influence will aid very much the progress of Homœopathy. We rejoice in being able to state further that pure Homœopathy is taught in this college, and that a mixed practice receives no countenance from any member of the faculty.

We visited every part of the college building, and were pleased with its arrangement. The museum is already respectable, and is gradually being enlarged.

Professor Semple delivered an interesting address to the graduates, which caused frequent bursts of applause from a large audience of ladies and gentlemen. We have not room for extended remarks at this time; suffice it to say, in conclusion, that the Homœopathic College of Pennsylvania is now established on a firm basis, and its success and usefulness is no longer doubtful.

The names of the graduates, together with their places of residence and the subjects of their theses, are as follows:—

Henry C. Angell, Rhode Island, Office of the Colon; Alexander G. Austin, New-York, Preparation and Practice of Medicine; Franklin Bigelow, New York, Cimicifuga Racemosa; James D. Blake, England, ——; James M. Blakesly, New York, Vis Vitalis; E. L. Boyle, New York, the Law of Cure; Joseph R. Brown, M.D., Texas, ——; Titus L. Brown, New York, Allopathic and Homœopathic Obstetrics; H. T. Brownell, Connecticut, ——; M. L. Casselberry, Pennsylvania, Paronychia; C. R. Chamberlain, M.D., Pennsylvania, Neuralgia; Ira E. Chase, M.D., Massachusetts, Medical Opinions and Qualifications; Peleg Clarke, M.D., Rhode Island, ——; G. B. L. Clay, Pennsylvania, Mechanism of Parturition; John F. Cooper, Pennsylvania, Measles; David Cowley, Pennsylvania, Ephelides; J. P. Dinsmore, Rhode Island, Homœopathy and its Founder; Andrew Eustace, Pennsylvania, Hygiene; Eli D. Gibson, Ohio, Progressive Medicine; Charles R. Gorgas, Ohio, Dysentery; John Greenbank, Pennsylvania, Similia Similibus Curantur; Rollin R. Gregg, New York, Temperaments; B. B. Gumpert, Pennsylvania, Phosphorus; Thomas J. Hardy, M.D., Virginia, the Eye; John L. Harris, Massachusetts, Homœopathy a Natural System of Cure; L. B. Hawley, New York, Digestion; W. T. Helmuth, Pennsylvania, Apocynum Cannabis; Alfred Hughes, Virginia, Consuetudo Medicæ; G. W. Ingham, Pennsylvania, Pneumonia; Edward R. Johnston, Pennsylvania, the Secretory System; Stacy Jones, Pennsylvania, Old and New School of Medicine; Alexander C. Miller, New Jersey, Cynanche Tonsillaris; Henry Minton, New York, Trillium Cernuum; Francis R. Moore, Pennsylvania, Examination of the Patient and Diagnosis; Asa W. Morse, New York, the Science of Medicine; John F. Musgrave, Pennsylvania, Hydrocephalus Acutus; Frederic N. Palmer, Maine, the Office of the Peritoneum; Theodore L. Pratt, Pennsylvania, Chimaphila Umbellata; Coates Preston, Pennsylvania, Homœopathy and Allopathy; Edward Reading, Pennsylvania, Lilium Superbum; Stephen Remington, Jr., New York, High Potencies; O. O. Roberts, Vermont, Hypertrophy of the Heart; W. Jackson Simons, New Jersey, Woman and her Diseases; G. E. E. Sparhawk, Vermont, Cobaltum; Joshua B. Stretch, Pennsylvania, Intermittent Fever; I. Tisdale Talbot, Massachusetts, Angina Membranacea; R. Titsworth, New York, Physiology of the Heart; John Turner, Michigan, Inflammation; Thomas Vernon, Rhode Island, Insanity and its Treatment; Charles H. Walker, New Hampshire, Dysentery; John A. Wakeman, M.D., Ohio, ——; Seymour West, New York, Cause and Effect; Thomas C. Williams, Pennsylvania, Accuracy in Practice; J. J. G. Wilkinson, England, ——; Ross M. Wilkinson, Pennsylvania, Inflammation.

WHOM THE GODS DESTROY, THEY FIRST MAKE MAD.

We do not perceive the necessity nor the good sense for those institutions of quackery, the allopathic medical societies, to adopt formal resolutions, as has been done, forbidding their members to consult with, or to hold social intercourse with, or to belong to the same church with those who practise Homœopathy. No true homœopath can desire a consultation with an empiric, however elevated he may be in his own eyes, or in those of his dupes. As regards social intercourse, self-respect, as well as the divine law, forbids communion with backbiters, evil speakers, and liars. And, also, it is a fixed principle which none but fools doubt, "evil communications corrupt good manners." And on this ground we advise all students who seek a true scientific and philosophical medical system, to avoid those quack manufactories—allopathic colleges. They are the last lurking places for error and professional corruption.